

SENATE RESOLUTION 115

By Oliver

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Northwest Family YMCA upon the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body recognize those community institutions and organizations that strive to improve the lives of children and families in their local communities; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy organization is the Northwest Family YMCA, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary in May 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Family YMCA's history dates back to 1965, when the board of the Nashville YMCA commissioned a study of the greater Nashville area to identify communities in need of a YMCA, and Northwest Nashville's Bordeaux community was among the neighborhoods identified; and

WHEREAS, only ten minutes from the hustle of downtown, the Bordeaux community is nestled in the northwest corridor of Nashville, with lush greenery and rolling hills; and

WHEREAS, for decades, the predominantly African-American community has been home to many working- and middle-class families, along with affluent and educated professionals, such as doctors, attorneys, judges, and administrators from Nashville's historically Black colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, the board of the Nashville YMCA authorized the establishment of a YMCA branch in North Nashville in 1966, and an agreement was reached to merge the efforts of the still-functioning Colored YMCA with the newly established branch of the Nashville YMCA; the resulting branch was officially organized with twenty-eight board members, twenty of whom

were minorities, with Julius Jones, a youth program director from Jacksonville, Florida, becoming the branch's first executive director; and

WHEREAS, prior to the construction of a new building, the North Branch of the YMCA operated out of a temporary home on North Jefferson Street, where staff and volunteers led arts programs and, in cooperation with Fisk University, began a recreational program at the Juvenile Detention Center; and

WHEREAS, the land on which the Northwest Family YMCA now stands was purchased in 1968; in the summer of 1969, before breaking ground on the building, the north branch opened its outdoor pool; and

WHEREAS, to celebrate the pool's grand opening, the YMCA welcomed the community to the pool for two days of free swimming; the fact that more than 2,000 people turned out provided ample evidence of the need for such a facility in the heart of Bordeaux, while also offering a preview of the Cool in the Pool program the YMCA would later operate for swimming lessons; and

WHEREAS, with community programming well underway, the North Branch of the YMCA, having been renamed the Bordeaux-North YMCA, celebrated its grand opening and dedication on May 12, 1973. For decades, this cornerstone of the Bordeaux community has enriched the lives of thousands of children and adults; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, however, the facility was in jeopardy of being closed and turned into a Metro Nashville community center; the action, undertaken by the mayor and YMCA board without community input, sparked an immediate outcry from concerned residents of the Bordeaux community, who rallied together and saved the facility from closure; and

WHEREAS, later renamed as the Northwest Family YMCA in 2022, the location became home to Nashville's first BlueCross Healthy Place, a state-of-the-art, multi-generational recreational space that is open to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Family YMCA is one of our finest assets, providing young people and their families with a wide variety of programs designed to develop character, achieve better mental and physical fitness, and build lasting and positive relationships with peers; and

WHEREAS, in May 2023, the Northwest Family YMCA will celebrate fifty years of serving as a wellness hub for individuals and families at every stage of life, and it is most appropriate that we commend this exceptional organization for being a shining example of the very best that YMCA clubs have to offer; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and congratulate the leadership, staff, and members of the Northwest Family YMCA on the occasion of the club's fiftieth anniversary and wish every one of them the very best in all of their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.